Distr.
GENERAL

IDB.13/23/Add.1
3 November 1994

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

United Nations Industrial Development Organization

Industrial Development Board

Thirteenth session
Vienna, 7-11 November 1994
Item 10 (a) of the provisional agenda

ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS: JOINT INSPECTION UNIT

Activities of the Joint Inspection Unit in 1993 and first half of 1994 of relevance to UNIDO

Note by the Secretariat

Addendum

United Nations system common premises and services in the field

1. The present document constitutes an update to the information contained in document IDB.13/23 in order to reflect a recent Joint Inspection Unit (JIU) report on United Nations system common premises and services in the field (JIU/REP/94/8). In that report, which is available with the Secretariat for information, the following recommendations are made by the Inspector:

Recommendation 1 - Legislative authority for the specialized agencies

"The relevant provisions of General Assembly resolutions relating to common premises and services in the field should be further submitted by the specialized agencies to their respective governing bodies, which should provide more precise legislative authority to their secretariats on the subject of this report in fulfilment of their treaty obligations under the Relationship Agreements they have concluded and ratified with the United Nations."

Recommendation 2 - Standard Representation Agreement

"In his capacity as Chairman of ACC [Administrative Committee on Coordination], the United Nations Secretary-General should initiate consultations with all appropriate parties with a view to achieving, to the extent possible, a new Standard Representation Agreement for all United Nations system field representations. The Agreement should inter alia:

"(a) Translate into concrete operational terms at the country level the relevant Articles of the Relationship Agreements between the United Nations and the specialized agencies pertaining to maximum achievement of common facilities and services, and the avoidance of competition for and duplication of resources amongst the parties.

"(b) Reflect more comprehensively General Assembly resolutions on field common premises and services as well as other policy directives relating to operational activities for development, with emphasis on maximum integration of these activities and the co-ordinating authority and role of the Resident Co-ordinator.

"(c) Contain an explicit clause enabling United Nations system organizations to provide, when and if necessary, essential services to their field staff without restriction or prohibition.

"(d) Take into account the need to reduce the financial costs of United Nations system field representations to host governments of low income and least developed countries."

Recommendation 3 - Administrative Committee on Coordination (ACC)

"In view of the significant financial and other benefits to be derived by United Nations system organizations from the development of a world-wide programme of common premises and services, as suggested in [the JIU] report, the executive heads of ACC should, among other measures:

"(a) Set up an Ad-hoc Task Force, assisted by JCGP/CPSP [Joint Consultative Group on Policy/Sub-Group on Common Premises and Services Project], to work out and refine the legal, financing and other practical modalities for implementing such a programme under a medium or long-term strategy aimed at significant reduction of the overhead expenditures of their field programmes and projects, and improving social services for their field staff at hardship duty stations. The Task Force should report to the executive session of ACC by the autumn of 1995;

"(b) Consider the feasibility of transforming JCGP/CPSP into an ACC sub-committee or Unit charged with responsibility for designing, developing and implementing the programme of common premises and services described in [the JIU] report. The terms of reference, staffing, financing and management of the Unit should be elaborated by the Ad-hoc Task Force recommended under (a) above;

"(c) Provide, in the context of recommendations 1 and 2, explicit instructions to their field representatives to participate fully in discussions and arrangements concerning common premises and services at the country level."

2. In compliance with recommendation 1, the attention of the Board is drawn to the following relevant resolutions of the United Nations General Assembly specified in the JIU report: 42/196 (1987), 44/211 (1989), 46/219 (1991), 47/199 (1992) and 48/209 (1993). The resolutions are available with the UNIDO Secretariat for consultation.

3. Among the documentation issued under agenda item 5 (e) on the UNIDO Country Director programme is document ID8.13/3/Add.1, which contains the proposals of the Director-General for a programme framework for UNIDO field representation. As explained in that document, the UNIDO field offices are an integral part of the field representation network of the United Nations Development Programme.

4. Concerning recommendation 3 of the Inspector, UNIDO is prepared to participate in the proposed ad hoc task force reporting to ACC and to share its extensive relevant experience.

ACTION REQUIRED OF THE BOARD

5. The Board may wish to review the recommendations contained in JIU report JIU/REP/94/8 together with the UNIDO views thereon and provide policy guidance for follow-up action, as recommended by the Inspector in recommendation 1.